

[29 November, 2001]

**RAJYA SABHA**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):** (a) Two exchanges were sanctioned for Lahaul and Spiti during 1993 to 1995.

(b) Both the exchanges have already been installed and no exchange is pending for installation as on date.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Capacity of Dhanpatganj Exchange**

**1224. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2482 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Dhanpatganj Exchange with capacity of 1000 lines has since been commissioned and waiting list has been cleared;

(b) whether village PCOs and telephone connections have been provided to the residents of Gram Sabha Khajuha, Roopipur and Sewra;

(c) if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to commission a new exchange at Shankargarh to reduce the burden of Dhanpatganj Exchange; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):** (a) Yes, Sir. Dhanpatganj Exchange with capacity of 1000 lines has been commissioned on 30.9.2001. 15 waiting list has been cleared and 123 is likely to be cleared by 31.3.2002 for which the cable laying work is under progress.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Laying of underground cable work is under progress. Village PCOs and telephone connections to the residents of Gram Sabha Khajuha, Roopipur and Sewra will be provided by 31.3.2002.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The new telephone exchange at Shankargarh has been planned for commissioning during 2002-03.